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Salvadorans Tell of Roles in Slayings

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SAN SALVADOR, Aug. 30 — Three Salvadorans appeared at a Government news conference today and described what they said had been their role in the killings of 13 people here, including four United States marines.

One of the suspects said he had opened fire; the other two said they had assisted those who did the shooting.

The self-confessed gunman, William Cello Rivas Bolaños, said there was no return fire when the rebels shot up an outdoor cafe with automatic weapons here two months ago. He also said he accidentally shot one of the other seven rebels who took part in the attack. The wounded rebel died in a downtown hospital, Government officials said.

The two other Salvadorans captured by the police and charged in the attack, Juan Miguel García Melendez and José Abraham Dimas Aguilar, said in the news conference this morning that they had helped hide some of the guerrillas who took part in the assault.

Helped Hide Rebels

Mr. Dimas said he managed a car repair shop where one of the rebel gunmen had worked. The rebel, code-named Masia, bragged about the attack the day after, Mr. Dimas said. He said he had hidden Masia on orders from his brother, who was also part of the rebel band. His brother and Masia have evaded capture.

President José Napoleón Duarte announced the arrest of the three men on Tuesday. They later appeared briefly on Government television confessing to the crime. Two United States agencies, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency, are believed to have aided in the investigation that was conducted principally by a new police special unit trained by United States advisers.

Salvadoran and American officials

here say they are convinced the three men were among those involved in the attack. A Salvadoran official said informers infiltrated into the rebels and helped the police.

"We are 100 percent certain that these men did it," an army spokesman, Lieut. Col. Carlos Armando Avilés, said in an interview. "There is no mistake."

Rebels Deny Role by 3

But the rebels, in a statement sent to a local radio station today, denied that the three were involved.

The rebel high command heralded the assault two months ago as a decisive blow against the United States. Senior rebel officials later said the civilians were killed because the rebels were forced to defend themselves when some of the diners in a cafe shot back.

The Government in the past has detained rebel suspects who, it later turned out, had been abused while in custody and were innocent of the charges.

But in the two-and-a-half-hour news conference today, the three men accused in the shootings gave highly detailed accounts of the attack and of how the rebel commandos operate in the capital. There were slight contradictions in the dates they gave for their capture and confession to the police, but they said they had not been abused and they appeared ready to answer all questions from reporters.

Presented One by One

The news conference was held at the National Guard headquarters and a senior Government official was present. The men were presented one by one. The official tried to keep the reporters from asking specific questions about the how police had apprehended the men.

Mr. Bolaños, 17 years old, said he had been a member of the Central American Revolutionary Workers

Party for four years and that he was ordered to join a 12-man urban commando unit of the group two years ago. The unit operates in three cells of four members each, he said. The rebel group is one of the five factions in the guerrilla Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

The revolutionary workers' group has taken responsibility for the attack on the marines.

Mr. García said the rebels bought a small upholstery workshop to help serve as a cover. He said he and Mr. Bolaños worked in the shop.

In the week before the attack Mr. Bolaños said the commander of his cell, whose code name was Uliases, told him to be ready to kill North American military advisers.

8 Rebels in Attack

On the night of June 19, Mr. Bolaños said he joined seven other guerrillas disguised as Government soldiers in the back of a pickup truck. They drove to a popular outdoor dining area where the marines were sitting at tables along the sidewalk.

Mr. Bolaños said he and three other guerrillas in the truck were chosen as the "annihilation unit." He said he emptied the 30-round clip of an M-16 automatic rifle in "the direction of the American advisers." He said there was no return fire and maintained that the civilians were killed by stray bullets.

Asked if he had selected his target carefully, Mr. Bolaños said he had not been able to because he was standing in the middle of the street and his view was blocked by cars parked in front of the restaurant. As he opened fire, one of his fellow rebels, code-named Julio, stepped in front of him. Mr. Bolaños said he accidentally shot him in the back. Julio died the next day in a downtown hospital, Colonel Avilés said. Mr. Bolaños said he was arrested Aug. 12.

Mr. García said he fled to the United States after the assault. But he said he was arrested Aug. 4 by United States immigration officials in San Diego, as he entered the country illegally.

He said he was deported to El Salvador on Aug. 16, where police were waiting to charge him with aiding in the attack on the marines.